

Census Forms can be mailed until Friday April 16th

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) reminds everyone that it is not too late to complete and submit your Census form. Citizens have until April 16th to return their form via standard mail. If you don't have a form you can call to request that one be sent to where you live. You can also pick up a Census Form at a "Be Counted Center." Find the "Be Counted Center" nearest you at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>

"If you don't have a form, call for one or pick up one and get it in as soon as possible. Mailing in a form saves a census taker from coming to your door and that saves a substantial amount of taxpayer money," Wilson said.

It costs the government just 42 cents to receive a questionnaire by mail, but costs taxpayers \$57 if a census taker has to go out to a home to collect the same information. If every household mailed back their census form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of the census by \$1.5 billion.

"That's a huge savings," Wilson said. "In addition, getting counted is vitally important for your community's bottom line. Governments use the census numbers to determine funding for your local area. I want to make sure that all communities in my district get their fair share, but in order to do that, you have to be counted. Ignoring the census will cost your community money and I think we can all agree that we can't afford that," Wilson said.

Citizens with questions or concerns about filling out their form should call the Census Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA) line at **1-866-872-6868**. This line provides general information about the census and can also answer specific questions about the form. Additional TQA numbers are available for those requiring Telephone Display Device (TDD) or non-English language services : TDD (Telephone Display Device for the hearing impaired): 1-866-783-2010, Chinese: 1-866-935-2010, Korean: 1-866-955-2010, Russian: 1-866-965-2010, Spanish: 1-866-928-2010, Vietnamese: 1-866-945-2010.

Mail participation rates in Ohio's 6th District have been encouraging, but most counties have not yet hit the level they reached with the 2000 Census.

"The good news is, there's still time. I cannot emphasize how important it is for our region to make sure that everyone is counted," Wilson said.

Here are the mail participation rates for the counties that make up the Sixth Congressional District as of April 12, 2010:

County

Final mail rate for 2000

Mail rate as of 4/12/10

Athens

68

63

Belmont

78

73

Columbiana

74

73

Gallia

69

69

Jefferson

74

72

Lawrence

69

65

Mahoning

80

73

Meigs

65

71

Monroe

69

62

Noble

68

62

Scioto

68

66

Washington

76

68

The Mail Participation Rate is the percentage of forms mailed back by households that received them. The Census Bureau developed this new measure in 2010, in part because of the current economy and higher rates of vacant housing. The rate excludes households whose forms were returned to us by the U.S. Postal Service as "undeliverable," strongly suggesting the house was

vacant. The Census will still follow up on all of those housing units to ensure that everyone is counted.

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